

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



Atlanta Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends (Quakers)
All are welcome

November 2018

Lives and Callings: Spiritual Journey Sharing – Nov 4th

On the first Sunday of each month, we listen to how a Friend in our meeting answers questions of God's leadings as well as questions about what brings them to this meeting, what led them to become a member or not, and what they believe now. We call these stories of spiritual journeys, stories where Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their life. On **Sun Nov 4th**, **Elaine Meyer Lee** will offer her spiritual journey. Come hear more: 9-9:55 on 1st Sundays in the library.

Book Group Meeting – changes to schedule/meeting time

The group reading writings by and about people of color has settled on the **first Thursday of each month at 1:30pm** in the Meetinghouse library as our new meeting schedule. The next meeting is set for **November 1** and will focus on poetry written by people of color. Everyone is encouraged to bring a poem or poems to read and discuss with the group.

The group is scheduled to read and discuss: Barracoon, The Story of the Last Black Cargo by Zora Neale Hurston (non-fiction) on December 6th and Washington Black by Esi Edugyan on January 3rd.

Friend-in-Residence Position Available in 2019

Atlanta Friends Meeting is searching for a new Friend-in-Residence (FiR) to start in first or second quarter 2019. Kelsey McNicholas, the current FiR, is taking the next step in her life and plans to leave after her 3rd year in this position ends in late February 2019.

This person (or persons) would live in the Meetinghouse apartment and help enrich the life of the meeting, preferably with a "leading" - which could be one for which the person has been recognized as a Released Friend, one of their own leading, or one that involves working with an established ministry of Atlanta Friends. The FiR must also help with Meetinghouse tasks (the "soft ministry" outlined in the job description).

The full job description is on page 14 of the Meeting Handbook, found on the AFM website (atlantaquakers.org) under the "Members & Attenders" tab. The position will become available as early as March 2019 but no later than September 2019. The position is for two years, with the possibility of a third and a fourth year.

Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
701 W. Howard Ave.

QUERY

***Do you encourage in yourself
and in others a habit of
dependence on God's
guidance for each day?***

- *Quaker Faith and Practice. 5th
edition*

For more information, please contact members of the FiR Search Committee - Steve Collins, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Jim Tolmach, or Suzanne Cole.

Call to Serve

The Meeting currently has various opportunities for service:

- **Ministry & Worship Committee:** Open to members of the meeting. Primary responsibility to nurture the spiritual life of the community.
- **Recording Clerk:** Open to members and attenders: Responsible for recording the issues considered at each month's regularly scheduled meeting for worship with attention to business.
- **Gathered Meeting Retreat committee;** Plans the Meeting's annual retreat.
- **Nominating Committee:** Encourages all attenders and members to enter the life of the meeting through the various opportunities to serve.

If you feel led to serve on these committees or in any other position in the Meeting contact Nominating committee clerk, Clive Gordon: cmgord28@gmail.com, (404) 534-1091.

Friends of Truth on Climate - *submitted by Henry Slack*

Members of the Society of the Friends of Truth (aka Quakers) have a 450-year history of putting their faith and their principles over the customs of their society. In England the 1600's, Friends didn't doff their hats to their "betters", since they believed that all were equal before God. In Pennsylvania in the 1700's, rather than vote for war, Friends resigned from the legislature. In the US in the 1800s, many followed John Woolman and avoided use of a slave-made dye on their hats, even though most of the county wore hats that were dyed.

Friends dared to bring aid to Germans after WWII, and white Friends in the American South dared to associate with African-Americans in the 1960's, even where segregation of races was the law of the land. Now in the era of climate change, the UN has told us that we have 10-12 years left to avoid horrendous changes in our climate. (Go to <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/08/global-warming-must-not-exceed-15c-warns-landmark-un-report>). This is a short time to drastically reduce fossil fuel use and prevent disaster to human civilization. If we fail to act quickly, natural forces will add even more greenhouse gases to our atmosphere, causing more weather disruptions.

We will see stronger hurricanes and torrential downpours while sea levels rise and storm surges reach further inland. Hundreds of millions of people will be refugees, forced to move away from the coasts. We will see food shortages as droughts and storms reduce our crops, as Hurricane Michael did to south Georgia pecans and chickens.

I see the Friends of Truth being called again to speak truth to power, beyond statements by Yearly Meetings. These Friends may choose to insulate and solarize their homes and drive electric vehicles (or get around by bike or transit when possible).

They may take the opportunity to eat a vegetable-rich diet (to reduce meat consumption, which takes more fossil fuel use) and reduce food waste. Individual action will not be enough to change society of course, so they are likely to encourage their friends and neighbors to make changes and speak up in politics. Some may make climate the deciding issue in their votes.

Politically, they may choose to support policies that can reduce fossil fuel use, likely with some sort of tax on the fuels that produce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, to help change everyone's behavior. More laws than that will be needed with time, but a tax on fossil fuels can increase innovation and help us find better solutions.

Who better than Quakers to recognize the Truth now and share it?

Building the Beloved Community, by Mary Ann Downey

The Atlanta Friends Meeting began as such a diverse group of people that one of the first attenders commented, "It seemed the only thing we had in common was a desire not to be preached at." Having been a part of this Meeting since 1978, and having visited other monthly and yearly meetings, I have often reflected on our diversity and wondered what holds us together. What keeps us struggling with our conflicts and differences? Why do we call ourselves members, attenders or Friends? I believe what holds us here is a real commitment to see that of God in each person and to work toward the kind of peaceful and just community we all yearn to be a member of. We share a deep hunger for community. It also seems that, at worst, what keeps us together is our willingness to avoid conflicts, pretend differences don't exist, stay away from those who annoy or trouble us, and just be nice. We come to enjoy the silence, and sometimes the messages, then leave operating on one of my mother's favorite rules, "If you can't say something nice, just don't say anything."

What does it take for us to be in and to build the beloved community that was the dream of early Friends and is still my hope? As I've wrestled with this question, I've identified some of the ingredients that I need. I long for a place where we can all speak honestly about who we are and what we need, where we have realistic expectations of ourselves and of others, where we cherish our differences even as we submit to corporate discernment. Above all, I want a spiritual community that helps me live in the Spirit.

In a recent discussion, we talked about what we want as individuals from this religious community and what our vision is for this Friends Meeting. It was a wonderfully deep and rich sharing that included ways that the Meeting has not met the needs of some people. I realized later that I could not remember any other discussion in all my years in Meeting on such a fundamental and valuable question. I hope that's because they've occurred and I've just missed them. How can we expect to build a spiritual community if our conversations stay only on safe topics like favorite movies or restaurants? As Scott Peck reminds us in his book on community building, we all need a "safe place for personal disarmament". We need the kind of time and space where we can share our most important dreams for ourselves and for a better world without fear of being ridiculed, rejected or politically incorrect.

During the same discussion, I also realized that some of us come to the Meeting with an idealized view of Friends, expecting that the beliefs espoused for more than three hundred years would create Meeting communities of perfect harmony and fairness. Even after attending for more than ten years, I confessed that I did not ask for membership because I believed that I needed to achieve some personal level of perfection or at least better daily practice of the beliefs before I could "fit in" or qualify for the title "Friend". Like me, others also held back from full participation and membership in Meeting from fear of not qualifying or being good enough. In contrast, some held back because they believed that the Meeting was not good enough. The expectations of our own personal perfection or of the perfect community are equally unrealistic and present major barriers to creating community. We need to accept our flaws and shadow side, realizing that while we espouse beliefs and work toward a peaceful and just community, we do not yet have the ability to create and maintain such a place.

If we communicate honestly and deeply about our needs for this religious community, differences will emerge. Parker Palmer writes, "In a true community we will not choose our companions, for our choices are so often limited by self-serving motives. Instead, our companions will be given to us by grace. Often they will be persons who will upset our settled view of self and world. In fact, we

might define true community as the place where the person who you least want to live with always lives"! Differences of belief, language, culture and practice have always been defining characteristics of Friends' Meetings. It was a willingness to struggle together with differences and to submit these concerns to a process of corporate discernment that helped Meetings grow strong and held early Ranters in check.

Ranterism is the belief that an individual can and should act on anything that they see the Spirit leading them to do. Among many other excesses, such a belief led James Naylor in 1656 to ride through the streets of Bristol recreating the procession of Christ on Palm Sunday, casting himself in the role of Christ. The sense of unity that we seek in our Meetings for Business rests on a commitment to submit our individual leadings to the wisdom of the group as we seek God's guidance.

Why should we risk saying where we are, how we are led and encouraging others, especially those with whom we disagree, to do the same? It is because the process of listening, understanding and appreciating differences is often painfully hard work, but essential to the life of a vital meeting which wants to become more than a collection of individuals who meet weekly in the same place. At its best, it is "learning to fight gracefully", as Scot Peck advised, in a way that builds community rather than destroys it.

During a meeting for worship, someone with a beautiful voice sang into the silence the hymn, "We are One in the Spirit". I was deeply moved because it was an affirmation of the profoundly gathered worship that we were experiencing at the moment, as well as a witness to what Friends have always believed. In the kind of beloved community that we hope to build, we are each connected as spokes of a wheel to a spiritual center and by reaching out to connect with that of God in each other, we create the strong outer rim that presses us to the center. I also sometimes picture our Meeting as a giant quilt where we offer the bits and scraps of who we are. Working together, we form patterns—beautiful designs that are stronger and more unique because of spiritual binding. The backing for the whole is the Spirit among us, and we see how the differences of color and design create the beauty of the whole.

When we say what we need, have realistic expectations of others and ourselves, embrace our differences and live in the Spirit we have some of the building blocks for the beloved community. Together, I believe that we can find all of them, and begin to discover what love can do.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: October 21, 2018

Record Pending Approval

Attendance: Paul Mangelsdorf, Myrna Trapp, Teri Key-Hooson, Bill Hooson, Elizabeth Lamb, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Alberta Guise, Kathy Johnson, Charles Markum, Steve Woody Woodall, Anna Kathryn Hodges, Jason Hodges, Jim Tolmach, Richard Allen, Michael Allison, Julie Foster, Larry Foster, Juan Allende, Alison Mawle, Steve Collins, Julia Ewen, Clive Gordon, Eric Glenn, Muireann Brennan, Kellie Divis, Suzanne Cole, Mary Ann Downey, Sally Ferguson, Bill Holland (Clerk), Rebecca Sullivan (Acting Recording Clerk) (30 Friends).

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared Tenth Month's Query into the worship: "Am I comfortable making my own needs known to my Meeting?" Friends shared about some responses out of the worship.

Discernment Items

Ministry and Worship Committee: Elizabeth Lamb, clerk of Ministry and Worship, brought forward Kellie Divis' membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting.

- **Minute 10-21-2018-01:** Upon the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Kellie Divis' membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting. We look forward to growing with her and sharing in the life of Macon Worship Group with her. Friends approved.

Elizabeth Lamb read Jenny Foster's letter requesting to transfer her membership to Honolulu Friends Meeting.

- **Minute 10-21-2018-02:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we ask Honolulu Friends Meeting to accept Jenny Foster into your meeting. She has been a valuable member of Atlanta Friends Meeting and we will miss her greatly, so it is with sorrow as well as joy that we recommend her to your care. Friends approved.

Reports

Ministry and Worship Committee: Ministry and Worship Committee recommends Joe Walsh for membership to Atlanta Friends Meeting. Joe has been attending regularly for the last year and has become an active volunteer in our community. A clearness committee has met with Joe and found him clear for membership. His name will be brought forward next month for approval.

Finance Committee: Paul Mangelsdorf, Clerk of Finance, reviewed the 3rd Quarter financial statement. Paul reminded people that we are entering the annual budgeting season. In the next month, committees will receive requests for committee budgets. In Eleventh Month, we will get a first reading of the FY 2019 budget. Friends stated their gratitude for the work of the Finance committee.

Administration Committee: Steve Collins, clerk of Administration Committee, reported on behalf of the administration committee. He started by reminding us that most of administration committee is made up of representatives from other committees. Administration had three items to inform the meeting about. 1) Finance committee has approved the purchase of the automated external defibrillator (AED) for the building. Jonah McDonald, the Meeting's Office Coordinator, will order an AED and storage box that he will install in an obvious place in the greeting room. 2) Jonah, as Property Coordinator, installed new LED light fixtures in the library for \$150 plus materials, significantly less than 3rd party bids. 3) Administration approved creation of the property coordinator position that has been in a trial mode for the past year and forwarded the recommendation to Finance Committee.

Friend in Resident Search Committee: An ad hoc search committee for a new Friend in Resident (FiR) has been formed. Members are Steve Collins, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Jim Tolmach and Suzanne Cole. Kelsey McNicholas, current FiR, will complete her third year in this position

late February 2019, and she is ready to take the next step in her life. A tentative project plan has been drafted, and an advertisement for this position will appear in the December issue of Friends Journal. An article will also be published in the upcoming Meeting newsletter.

Nominating Committee: Clive Gordon, clerk of Nominating, reported on behalf of nominating committee. They bring forward Allison Mawle as clerk of Gathered Meeting Committee for a first reading. Clive announced that Ministry and Worship Committee has several openings as current members complete their term and rotate off. Friends must be members of AFM to serve on M&W. Friends interested in service are encouraged to speak with the nominating committee.

Care and Counsel Committee: Bill Hoosen, clerk of Care and Counsel, reported on behalf of the committee. Care and Counsel is restarting the care of the meeting lists. This is a way for friends to sign up to support with needs of the meeting as they arise. The three categories C&C is aware of are Transportation, Meals and Visits. Friends are asked to sign up so C&C can reach out when a concern arises in the Meeting.

Clerks Items

The Clerk of the Meeting appoints the Naming Committee to nominate members of the Nominating Committee. Ron Nuse, Lynn Leuzler, Chris Lahowitch and Elizabeth Tolmach will serve as this year's naming committee.

Atlanta Friends Meeting received notice from Western Regional Monthly Meeting in Ireland that they have accepted care of membership of Meg Harper and Rick Stops.

Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunity... After a conversation with the Clerk, Bethany Morrison has stepped down as recording clerk.

- **Minute 10-21-2018-03:** Atlanta Friends Meeting thanks Bethany Morrison for her service as recording clerk 2017-2018.

Events in the Life of the Meeting

Martha King McGill and Leeland McPhail were married on September 22, 2018 in Cambridge Massachusetts in the manner of Friends.

Samuel Allen Gough was born October 4, 2018 to Denae Evans and Josh Gough.

Minutes Ninth Month (September) 16, 2018

- **Minute 10-21-2018-04:** The Minutes of Ninth Month 2018 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved with a correction of the date of the meeting.

Friends closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Holland (Clerk)
Rebecca Sullivan (Acting Recording Clerk)

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

*Laurel Muff
Christina Repoley & Family
Judith Greenberg
Maggie Hasbrouck
Teri Key-Hoosen
Deirdre and Nia McCalla
Beth Ann Buitekant
Beth Ruddiman and family
Debra Uwimana and family
Donna Roberts and family*

Those wishing to have requests for holding included in this monthly newsletter may give the names to a member of Care & Counsel.

Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Bill Holland, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Elizabeth Lamb, gslpc@bellsouth.net
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
Social Concerns: Bert Skellie, bertskellie@gmail.com
Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com
Care & Counsel: Bill Hoosen, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com
Religious Education: Jennifer Dickie, michaeljen@bellsouth.net
Library Clerk: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Editor: Claire Hannapel, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com

Calendar for Tenth Month (Oct) 2018

Area Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:00 a.m. - Meetinghouse (AFM), with a smaller group in the Library. 10:30 a.m. - Peachtree Friends Meeting (Christian-friendly, affirming, open to all), 3980 Florida Ave, Norcross GA, peachtree.quaker.org 1:30 p.m. - Stone Mountain Friends Church (Evangelical), at Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, 5135 Memorial Dr, Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Every Third First Day	12:30 p.m. - Carrollton Friends Worship Group. St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; contact Jean Hudson, jhudson30116@yahoo.com or 678-378-3368; carrolltonfriends.org .
Every Second First Day	2:30 p.m. - Macon Friends Worship Group. Contact Kellie Divis at MaconQuakers@gmail.com ; maconquakers.org
Sixth Day (Friday)	11:00 a.m. - East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at bertskellie@gmail.com or 404-680-4799. (Mid-August through May), 9:00 a.m. - Friends School of Atlanta. Community Meeting Room, 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, 404-373-8746.

Regular Events at the Meetinghouse

Every First Day (Sunday)	9:00 a.m. - Adult Religious Ed, Library Every second Sunday, 9:30 a. m. - Singing, Classroom A/B 10:00 a.m. - Meeting for Worship 5:00 p.m. - Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship, Meeting Room
Second Day (Monday)	Every other Monday at 6:30 p.m. - Spiritual Nurture Group, Library (contact Lewis Fuller for info on how to join) 7:00 p.m. Bible Discussion, High School Classroom
Third Day (Tuesday)	6:00 - Alex Zinnes Yoga, Nursery Second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 - Deep Waters Center for Prayer & Exploration, Meeting Room
Fourth Day (Wednesday)	8:30 a.m. Morning Worship, Library First and third Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. Worship at David & Freer Jarvis' home 7:00 - 8:30 pm: Semi-programmed worship at AFM. Contact Ashley Wilcox: ashleymwilcox@gmail.com , 206-300-5836.
Sixth Day (Friday)	Every third Friday, Meeting for Business, Meeting Room
18 th of Each Month	Newcomers Welcome Dinner, rotating location

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING
701 W. Howard Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030-2902

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office: MWF 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; 404-377-2474

Web: atlantaquakers.org, atlantaquakers@gmail.com

Clerk: Bill Holland, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Are you a newcomer to the Atlanta Friends community? We would be happy to make you a permanent nametag. You can leave a request in one of the baskets on the front table. Indicate whether you prefer one that hangs around the neck or that pins. When Carol Gray has made one for you, it will be placed in the black file box on the greeting table.

If you would like to be included in the AFM database and receive the Newsletter by mail and/or appear in future AFM Directories, please send your name and contact information to Brent Wolff at rbkwolff@gmail.com. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both.

Contributions to the Atlanta Friends Meeting may be placed in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mailed to the Treasurer at our Meetinghouse address. Thank you!
This newsletter is a publication of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Meeting.

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, notices and anything else of interest to Friends. Items should be sent directly to atlquakerltr@gmail.com in plain text. Submissions may be edited for length and format.

THE DEADLINE FOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH.

To receive the Newsletter via e-mail, send a blank e-mail to afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com from the address where you want to receive the newsletter. You will receive a note back from Yahoo asking you to confirm your subscription; hit reply and you will be added to the list at no charge. To receive general announcements and to participate in discussion, follow the same instructions, but address the note to afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.